



PC362.02; 004002-002643; 265378

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:	)	Before the Examiner
Hai H. Trieu	)	Alvin J. Stewart
	)	
Serial No. 09/943,441	)	Group Art Unit 3738
	)	
Filed: August 30, 2001	)	Ref. No. 4002-2643/PC362.02
	)	
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC IMPLANTS	)	
AND METHODS	)	February 19, 2004

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**MAR 03 2004**  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2003, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on **February 19, 2004**.

Timothy N. Thomas  
Name of Registered Representative

*Timothy N. Thomas*  
Signature

February 19, 2004  
Date of Signature